

RADIO

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FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

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CIA SUPPORTING PEOPLE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

BILL RYAN: New York Democratic Representative Charles Rangel has called for an investigation by the House Select Committee on Crime into allegations that the CIA is supporting people in Southeast Asia who are involved in the heroin trade.

REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES RANGEL: The CIA certainly has been involved with heads of nations as well as representatives of governments that are involved in the international trafficking of drugs. Recently -- at least since I've been in the Congress -- many members of Congress have made serious allegations that not only are we involved through the CIA in drug trafficking, but in many cases supporting people that are involved in the drug trafficking. We do know that much of American tax payers' money that have gone into military vehicles are now being used for the international trafficking of drugs.

What bothers me is that the CIA doesn't believe that it has an obligation to answer to anybody. And I for one have demanded copies of ten reports that they've had to deal with the drug trafficking in Southeast Asia. The only report I get from the CIA's office is that they are going to sanitize the reports, and pull out information, and then at some later date they would make this available.

QUESTION: Do you equate this word "sanitizing" with censorship?

REPRESENTATIVE RANGEL: There's no question in my mind that whatever they want to give to me, I refuse to accept it sanitized. If they want to give out a sanitized report, let them do it in a press release. What I'm saying, that as a member of Congress I cannot vote intelligently on appropriations to foreign nations when it's been reported that these nations are involved in drug trafficking. I think the American people, and more specifically the members of the United States Congress, have to know what role heads of government that are receiving

foreign aid from the United States people are playing in the international trafficking of drugs, and what role, if any, the CIA is playing in supporting this type of activity.

RYAN: I reminded Rangel that another New York Democrat, Ogden Reid, last week called on the House Foreign Affairs Committee to look into charges that the CIA and the State Department have supported people engaged in the heroin trade. Rangel said, that's fine with him. He doesn't care who checks into the charges, as long as someone does.

Over at the House Select Committee on Crime we are told the matter is under advisement.